



Camp Chase/Confederate Cemetery

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

Camp Chase was established in 1861 as a replacement for the smaller Camp Jackson. Named after former Ohio Governor, and then current Secretary of Treasury, Salmon P. Chase, Camp Chase was used as a military staging area, training grounds, and prisoner-of-war camp during the Civil War. While in operation, the camp had a reputation for being one of the filthiest prisons for Confederate troops. By 1864, the prison held over 8,000 Confederate prisoners, more than what the facility was designed to handle. The increase in population, coupled with an outbreak of smallpox and pneumonia, led to high casualty rates in the last year of Camp Chase's existence. The camp was closed in July 1865. Any dismantled buildings and usable items from the camp were transferred to the Soldier's Home in Dayton, leaving only the cemetery intact. More than 2,000 Confederate soldiers are buried in the Camp Chase Cemetery. The cemetery can be visited by the public, located at 2900 Sullivant Avenue in Columbus.

Important Dates

- May 1861: Camp Chase is established.
- July 5, 1861: 21 members of the 23rd Military District become the first prisoners of war at Camp Chase.
- March 5, 1863: Soldiers leave Camp Chase to raid the *Crisis* newspaper for opposing the war, and assisting traitors. The *Crisis* was a newspaper for northerners who supported the Confederacy, also known as Copperheads.
- July 1865: Camp Chase is closed.
- 1902: A memorial arch is dedicated to the soldiers buried in the Confederate Cemetery.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: Camp Chase, prison, soldier, cemetery, confederate, letter, correspondence, muster.
- Use specific date ranges when looking for articles about Camp Chase.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[Horrible Barbarities](#)" *Daily Nashville Patriot* (Nashville, TN), December 15, 1861, Image 2, col. 2-3.
- "[Report of the Camp Chase Committee](#)" *Daily Ohio Statesman* (Columbus, OH), March 26, 1862, Image 2, col. 3.
- "[Letters from the Three Months Volunteers](#)" *Tiffin Weekly Tribune* (Tiffin, OH), June 6, 1862, Image 3, col. 3.
- "[Horrible Disclosures in Relation to Camp Chase Prison](#)" *Dayton Daily Empire* (Dayton, OH), December 15, 1862, Image 2, col. 3.
- "[Reaching a 'Crisis'](#)" *Cleveland Morning Leader* (Cleveland, OH), March 7, 1863, Image 1, col. 2.
- "[Confederate Monument](#)" *Paducah Sun* (Paducah, KY), June 14, 1902, Image 2, col. 3.